

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief Ronal W. Serpas*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

## **Serpas Names Three to Captain**

Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that he has promoted Lieutenants Curt Hattell, Mark Couey, and Mark Thomas to the rank of captain.

Captain Curt Hattell has over 18 years of law enforcement experience and will serve as the Field Operations Bureau (FOB) captain. Hattell has served as a trooper, sergeant, and lieutenant in a variety of assignments, to include serving as a single-engine command pilot in the Aviation Section. FOB is the largest bureau in the State Patrol which encompasses the uniformed troopers. He will be responsible for budgetary and administrative oversight of eight geographic districts located throughout the state as well as the Special Operations Division. His duties also include overseeing the department's Problem Oriented Public Safety (POPS) program. Hattell is a graduate of Washington State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences and Law and Management.

Captain Mark Couey, a 19-year veteran in law enforcement, will serve as the captain of the Investigative Assistance Division (IAD). Couey has promoted through the ranks to include being the commander of the State Patrol's Narcotics Section. IAD includes the Criminal Intelligence Unit, Narcotics Section, Narcotics Task Force, Computer Crimes Unit, Missing and Exploited Children Task Force, Missing Children Clearinghouse, and the Statewide Incident Response Team. Couey earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Oregon State University.

Captain Mark Thomas has over 17 years in law enforcement and will serve as the District 8 captain. He has also promoted through the ranks that included serving as the assistant district commander in Marysville. Thomas has had a significant and successful career in a number of field positions as a trooper, sergeant, and lieutenant working the state's highways. This valuable experience will serve him well as a district commander. District 8 is situated along the Pacific coastline with headquarters in Bremerton. The district has 140 employees and provides service to Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties. Thomas has a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Washington University in Business Administration.

Captains Hattell, Couey, and Thomas have exceptional knowledge for the State Patrol and have served in various positions during their careers. "These three individuals possess the knowledge, skills, and exceptional ability to perform the duties of these select Captain positions. Their academic achievement further demonstrates their individual commitment to professional law enforcement. Their law enforcement experience, commitment, and leadership to making a difference in this agency will enable them to fulfill the duties of these command-level positions," stated Chief Serpas.

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